

## VILLAGERS CLOTHE AND SCRUB FAMILY

Rockland County Folk Aid Seven Found Living in Primitive State.

ONE SENT TO SCHOOL

Girl Finds Path Home After Truant Officer Loses His Way.

FATHER WORKS OUT FINE

Asserts That He Will Try to 'Fix Up' Their Abode and Avoid More Trouble.

The tranquil little village of Pearl River, in the hills of Rockland county, less than thirty miles from the heart of New York city, is buzzing with a charitable interest in the fate of a family of seven which recently moved into their midst and revealed the most primitive mode of living which has been known in that section for many years. Certain features of the case impress a visitor with what is known of inhabitants of the Kentucky mountains, or what is read in a book of fiction whose scene is far from the biggest, busiest, wealthiest city in the world.

The particular cross-section of home life which once must have been veritable equalizer, centers around a slender, blue-eyed girl of 10, Ella Thompson, and her father, Irving Thompson, a landscape gardener. The father is working now to pay a fine of \$5 which was his sentence when arraigned ten days ago before Charles M. Haughey, Justice of the Peace, charged with failure to provide for the education of his daughter. The girl has just completed her first week in school, an ambitious, interesting pupil in the second grade, eager to master the names and meaning of figures and pictures in her school books. Her intimate knowledge of wild life, gleaned from the few years of her simple existence miles from a school-house is said to be remarkable.

Returning with the village truant officer from her first day at school, both were nearly lost until the girl identified the path by some mullet leaves which she had seen earlier in the day. "See!" she exclaimed to her guide. "Mullet leaves! All right now!"

Discovered by Woman.

But this was several days after the accidental discovery of the family by the wife of William A. Serven, former assemblyman, and her daughter-in-law, who were walking on a hill adjoining their village home. Mrs. Serven caught sight of ragged children playing in an orchard, which crowns the top of this hill less than a half mile from her own home. The ten children, the condition of the children's clothing attracted Mrs. Serven's attention, and she investigated. The children, shrinking in fear at the approach of the two strange women, ran toward a shed, in one corner of the orchard, the corner nearest the Serven home. The women followed, and what they discovered when the door of that shed was opened by a haggard, poorly dressed mother of five scantily clad children was enough to touch responsive chords in any mother's heart.

From the puzzled woman in the shed it was learned that the oldest child, Ella, was of school age, but had never attended school. A glimpse of the physical condition of the mother and her children showed immediate need of clothing, soap and water. The nearest source of water, it was found, was a spring a quarter of a mile toward the woods. Somehow there were evidences that it had not been used as it should in that little shed. Sewage was and still is problematical.

Ella's absence from the village school brought action from the truant officer, and Thompson was haled before the Justice of the Peace. Then there was some vigorous scrubbing and cleansing of the young Thompsons before the villagers would give them a clean bill of health. But the mother and her children still lived in the village, and a group of interested mothers shortly produced suitable clothing for all five children and the mother. More is on the way, and a substantial set of cooking utensils and dishes is going to supplant the crude equipment of the family.

Knows About Outdoor Life.

First reports of the family connected them with the so-called "Jackson whites" of the Ramapo Hills section. Investigation yesterday proved that this was not erroneous. Thompson appears to be about forty-five years old. He has attended school and shows a ready knowledge of outdoor life and the care of trees, shrubs and flowers.

When seen yesterday afternoon, he wore an old slouch hat, a gray sweater with sleeves mended in ample stitches after the fashion of a self-reliant bachelor. His trousers were of khaki and seemed to be fairly new. The impressive thing about his appearance is the unnaturally heavy lid of his right eye and a scar on his cheek, the result, he says, of an accident in his early life. Born in Haverstraw, he tells of having lived and worked in Spring Valley, Rockland Lake, Westwood, where he married, and more recently "on Sunnyside place," whence he came to Pearl River. At one time he worked in Interstate Park, where he "set out hedges without a line," and is proud of his accomplishment.

In talking with Thompson, one feels that education isn't everything, particularly about the care of trees.

"I had nine big pups up here once," he related of some nursery school men, "and not one of them could tell me what was the matter with some trees I showed them. The trouble (with the trees) was they had knobs—a good whorled wood—on the roots. Cut those off and they grow fine as ever. But they didn't know it."

Thompson speaks of the part which the village folk have taken in getting Ella to school, but says that he intends to avoid further unpleasantness and work steadily so he can "fix up" his present home. One of his children, Ida, 7 years old, is dumb, and he plans to send her to an institution in New York city if he can secure the necessary funds. The others, still showing signs of their impoverished life, are Ethel, 4 years old, Gene, 3, and Violet, three months, a babe in arms.

From the slight inspection of the shed which was possible yesterday, their orchard home is not amply furnished. Near the door was a small wash stand, in one corner a stove, opposite the stove was the curtained passage to what seemed to be a second room, and not far from there was a table. A veteran baby carriage, not far from the stove, was the baby's resting place.

## Two Boston Boys Stricken With Mysterious Disease

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

BOSTON, May 1.—Two Roxbury boys are unconscious in the City Hospital from a mysterious ailment. Specialists will endeavor to-morrow by laboratory investigation to learn the nature of the disease.

Each lad was stricken suddenly unconscious yesterday from home. William B. Shaw, aged seven, was stricken while walking with several companions. An automobile driver saw him fall and took him to the hospital. John McGrath, aged 13, collapsed when in a house he was visiting and was taken unconscious to the hospital.

## MILLER APPROVES CHARTER REVISION

Governor Signs 121 Bills, but Still 400 Remain to Be Acted Upon.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Albany, May 1.

Gov. Nathan L. Miller gave out this afternoon a list of 121 bills, all of them thirty day measures, which he has approved, including the measure permitting Woodrow Wilson to practice law in this State and the Meyer charter revision bill for New York city. This last named measure created a commission of fifteen, eleven to be appointed by the Governor and the other four by the Mayor, the Controller, the President of one of the boroughs and a member of the Board of Aldermen. It appropriates \$25,000. The commission will revise the charter and put the city administration on a business basis, but will not begin to function until November, after the city investigation committee has completed most of its work.

In spite of the fact that the Governor has now signed a large number of bills, more than 400 remain on his desk upon which he must act before May 16, the end of the thirty day period. They cover almost every subject known to the lawmakers, and scores of public hearings will be held during the next two weeks before the Governor, many of them on important controversial matters over which the Senate and the Assembly fought for many months. The most important of these are perhaps the bill repealing the direct primary and restoring the party convention method and the water power bill.

Big Measures Signed.

The important bills signed by the Governor yesterday are to-day include: The Tolson bill requiring the installation of voting machines in New York city.

The bill authorizing the issuance of \$25,000,000 in bonds as the first installment on the soldiers' bonus.

The Cottle bills regulating the foreign exchange business of private bankers and the express and steamship companies.

Appropriating \$1,500,000 for the State Labor Department. Placing public school teachers under the State retirement act.

Postponing the taking effect of the new civil service act until October 1 and making all the rent law amendments to the act.

Requiring physical training in localities having schools with over twenty pupils.

Imposing a direct State tax of 2.27 mills on each dollar.

Providing a local history in each borough of New York city.

The Governor also signed several of the Lockwood Housing Committee bills, one of which provides that a tenant who has paid three months' rent cannot then set up a defense that the rent is unjust.

The Governor will hear arguments Wednesday on the Meyer bill amending the Donnelly anti-trust law to prevent labor unions fixing the price of their products. This is aimed especially at the photo-engravers' union, but is far reaching in its effect. Samuel Gompers made a hurried trip to Albany to beat the bill, which was passed in the closing hours of the session. Labor is prepared to make another hard fight on Wednesday. The Governor is expected to sign the bill.

Important Bills Pending.

Important bills on which the Governor has not yet acted are: A bill which he will act within a day or two include:

Motion picture censorship. The picture industry has asked the Governor to enact a substantial act of censorship, but he is expected to reject the proposal and sign the bill. It provides for State censorship and a tax on every foot of film shown in this State. Executive approval is expected.

The Lusk anti-addiction bills. These require loyalty tests of teachers, forbid licensing of teachers who advocate revolutionary changes in our government and require State licensing of Socialist schools. The Rand School and its like would be restricted or put out of business.

Narcotic drug control. This prescribes a system for treating drug addicts and for regulating drug control. Leading physicians of the State have opposed the bill on the ground that such a law as proposed would drive addicts into expensive sanitariums maintained for the purpose. The Governor's position on these bills is unknown but not regarded as favorable.

Here are some of the other more important bills left for action:

The Gibbs water power proposal for development of the State's great natural resources under State regulation and with private capital.

Abolishing the existing Boxing Commission of three members and bringing wrestling under its control.

Duell's bill giving veterans preference in civil service.

Davenport's income tax amendments revealing the system of counting loss on stocks to the advantage of the owners of bonds.

STILL OVER SUNDAY SCHOOL.

POCAHONTAS, Idaho, April 30.—The curiosity of a youthful attendant at Sunday school services caused the discovery of a still today.

The boy noticed two brownish drops on the ceiling. The drops failed to fall, so after the Sunday school pupils had left he climbed into the attic and uncovered an oil stove, a still, a quantity of mash, some burned sugar and all the accessories to make liquor.

His report of his discovery resulted in the confiscation of the still, but the operator has as yet not been discovered.

The contents of his heart—shown on his face!

RIRIE MACDONALD

276 FIFTH AVENUE COR. 47TH ST.

## MURDER IS CHARGED TO TWO ROOKIE COPS

Continued from First Page.

and placed the two officers under arrest after they had shown their shields.

According to the police version, the probationary officers met at 10 o'clock in the evening and went to a saloon at Broadway and Howard avenue, where they tried to buy liquor. Upon being refused, Simon is said to have told his companions he knew a place run by a man by the name of Zeangle, where they could get whiskey.

They went to Howard avenue and hired a taxicab driven by a man called Joe, for whom the police are searching. The taxicab stopped half a block from Zeangle's saloon and the five occupants and the chauffeur are said to have entered the place together.

"Hello, Charlie, how are you and have you got any good liquor?" Simon is quoted as saying as the party stood in front of the bar.

"We haven't any liquor in the place,"

Hanson replied, according to police investigation.

Simon, according to the same sources of information, then went into the rear room and appealed to Zeangle, who also said there was no whiskey in the place. Simon then came back behind the bar and appeared to be excited.

"After drinking two or three glasses of beer apiece three or four of my friends left the saloon," Simon is quoted as telling the police captains. "As they left the place Hanson became abusive and rushed toward me. I backed up against the wall, as I saw about fifteen customers in the saloon adopting the same attitude. I drew out my revolver and shot in self-defense. A moment later Schick came in with Patrolman Quaid."

Patrolman Quaid took the revolver from Simon and ran for an ambulance from St. John's Hospital, where the wounded man was taken by Dr. McFarland. Detective Eugene O'Rourke remained close to the bed, hoping Hanson would regain consciousness so as to make a statement.

Simon and Schick wept when they were placed in cells after being questioned by Capt. Sullivan, who ordered the lawbreaker, and scores of public hearings will be held during the next two weeks before the Governor, many of them on important controversial matters over which the Senate and the Assembly fought for many months. The most important of these are perhaps the bill repealing the direct primary and restoring the party convention method and the water power bill.

Simon is married and has a six-year-old daughter. He served overseas. Schick is single and lives with his mother and sisters. The two men were appointed to the police force on March 8.

## DRY NEW YORKERS FIND LID ON JERSEY

Saloons Generally Are Closed

Out of Respect for Van Ness Law.

New Yorkers and Jerseyites experienced yesterday the driest Sunday in history owing to the drastic police enforcement in this city and the voluntary closing of hundreds of saloons and speakeasies on the Jersey side of the Hudson, that did not dare to take a chance in violating the Van Ness enforcement measure which went into effect at midnight on Friday.

There was the usual exodus from Manhattan to Jersey City, Hoboken and other nearby hitherto wet spots in Jersey, but in many instances the trip had no liquid results, as places which have run almost wide open in defiance of the Volstead act were closed up tight awaiting information as to just how strictly the police intend to enforce the new act.

Newark, however, was slightly more than her sister cities. A few places closed, but liquor could be obtained where one was known. It was not sold

as openly, however, as on previous Sundays. The police made no raids but arrested one man on the street suffering from acute alcoholism.

It is doubtful if the police of Newark and Jersey City will be unusually active in enforcing the Van Ness measure until after May 10, as both cities will have a municipal election that day and many of the officials not directly concerned in handling the liquor question are up for reelection.

"Van Ness act" queried a saloon-keeper of Passaic, where a visitor from New York bought a drink of good Scotch at fifty cents. "Whaddya mean, enforce. Say there's a lot of fellows who don't know there is such a law. Nobody cares because it is against constitutional rights anyhow. I don't look as if I'm worrying, do I?"

In New York city the police continued their usual vigilance, which resulted in twenty-five arrests throughout the five boroughs. About the same number were arraigned in Magistrates' courts and released in \$1,000 bail each. A few saloons took a chance where the premises afforded an upstairs room or double rear back room. Otherwise it was almost bone dry.

May Grand Jurors in the different boroughs will begin to-day hearing cases of liquor violations. Every District Attorney's Office is swamped with liquor complaints, there being more than 1,400 now on file in New York county alone. It will take several weeks to present these cases to the Grand Jury.

## NIAGARA YIELDS BODY OF SLAIN RUM RUNNER

Makes Third Victim of Smugglers' Battle.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

HUFFALO, May 1.—Breaking loose from its moorings at the bottom of the Niagara River near Great Island, where it had been thrown, heavily

weighted, on March 16, the body of Albert Lazar, 35, boatman for Roy Schindler, former king of the Niagara whiskey runners, also murdered that night, came to the surface yesterday less than a mile from where the body of Schindler was found. The finding of Lazar's body complicates one of the most mysterious smuggling murders ever committed along the frontier. It was thought at first that Lazar had killed Schindler for \$2,000 in cash and fifty cases of whiskey.

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### Borrow One!

BORROW One—if you haven't one yourself. There is always an exception to every rule; always an excuse for occasional transgression. And so, though borrowing is seldom to be recommended, this time it is perfectly permissible. Therefore—borrow a boy, if you haven't one yourself, for Friday night of this week. May 6th is the date. Friday night is Boy's Night At Home, the day of days in Boy's Week when the grown man can entwine himself in the boy's heart most successfully; for, on that night, he is asked to be a "regular fellow" with the boy.

If you are fortunate enough to have one or more boys in your home, try to make it a gala time for them. Forget that you're centuries older than they! Forget that you have all the wisdom that Solomon overlooked! Forget that the financial columns of the evening paper are the most interesting to you and remember that the sporting page has the latest political intrigues and the Drys vs. Wets question lashed to the mast for thrills.

There's much to forget when a cut-and-dried man tries to soar to the level of a live-and-loving boy! But Boy's Night is the time to try it. Perhaps you have looked long for the Fountain of Youth; and, failing to find it, have accepted the next best thing by allowing the barber to perpetrate all the facial outrages he can think of to restore your baby skin, or you may even have descended to the abdominal bandage and colored collar stage, overlooking completely the surest youth restorer in the world—your own boy. Books and poems have been printed and interesting drawings made of father and son who are "pals," but it seldom exists in real life. There is always too much of the mentor-master-must-not attitude; too little of the chum-champion-cheese-it! harmony.

Rub it all out on Boy's Night—and start all over again to make yourself a hero and a pal in his eyes, as well as a father. Lest you go too far afield and flounder in the depths, here are a few hints given gratis, to help you in making the night a great success:

Order just what he loves most for dinner.  
At dinner, let the talk be boy-talk; give him a chance to express some of his ideas—he has many more than you know of.  
During the evening be a source of interesting information and true amusement to him.  
Shed your crust and don't be afraid that your heart will die of exposure.  
Show him the same sort of affection you lavished on him when he was an adorable baby.  
That means that giving him a good hug and a kiss doesn't mean that you're turned "soft."  
When he goes to bed be sure that his dreams will be of Dad, a new Dad who really understands a fellow.

The Rotary Club of New York through Arthur Woodward, the Chairman of Boy's Night At Home committee, bids you remember that getting into your boy's heart while he's young avails many of the heart-breaking situations that might occur when he's older. And, once again, if you haven't a boy—borrow one!—and let it be an underprivileged boy rather than a privileged one.

Next Issue, Tribune, May 9th, 1921

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